

**Sophomore Honors English
Semester Two Final Exam
Study Guide**

Format: The exam will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and analytical essay.

Cumulative Vocabulary Final. This portion of the exam will be on Thursday, June 4th and covers all semester 2 words.

Objective Scantron Exam. The scantron portion of your final will be approximately 40-50 questions and will include content primarily from *A Tale of Two Cities*, though *Macbeth* will be included.

Short Answer. The exam will include 5-10 short answer questions (worth 2-8 points each) which will focus primarily on *A Tale of Two Cities* (while also including *Macbeth*). Quote/passage analysis will be part of this section.

Essay. You will be asked to compose an in-class essay as the final segment of your semester exam. You may select from the prompts below and prepare one page of notes, including (and LIMITED TO) thesis, topic sentences, and supporting quotes. OUTLINES THAT EXCEED THIS LEVEL OF DETAIL WILL BE INELIGIBLE FOR USE. In your essay you must make a *minimum* of four references to literature we have studied this year, with at least two references being from *A Tale of Two Cities*. You must also weave in at least two other quotes from the following pieces: *Macbeth*, *The Kite Runner*, *Of Mice and Men*, *East of Eden*, *The Odyssey*, or Myths and Archetypal pieces.

Essay Prompts

Select one of the following to respond to in a fully-developed, well-supported essay. Use the prompt as a starting point to inspire your own clear and concise thesis.

- Consider the archetypes and representations of the heroic we examined over the course of the year. Is there value in studying the heroic and loss-quest archetypes? What place do archetypes and heroic patterns have in storytelling? Are they truly relevant representations of the human experience or mere fodder for overzealous, over-analyzing English teachers?
- A unifying topic of our texts this year has been choices, especially those that were difficult, made under pressure, and life-changing. Compare the motivations and consequences of characters' choices, coming to a conclusion regarding who was

successful, who wasn't, and why. What do different characters' choices, the motivations behind them, and their consequences reveal about human nature?

- The literature of sophomore year examines our heritage as a people, seeking to understand who we are as humans and what has brought us here. Imagine you've been given the opportunity to present recommendations to the school board for new sophomore curriculum. What one text that you've read on your own would you recommend, and on what basis? *Be sure to explain how this text fits in with what you've examined so far in Sophomore Honors English, making connections between your choice and the texts we've read so far this year.*
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Your essay should incorporate the following:

Introduction

- Something to draw your reader into your argument
- Background information/context
- Claim/Thesis Statement

Body

- At least 3 arguments supporting your position
- Evidence from the text(s) that supports your arguments
- Connection to overall position

Conclusion

- Restates position statement
- Recaps arguments
- Provides thoughtful closure